(a) whether Government have issued a new notification on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the notification would have a big impact on the life of local people living in resource rich areas; and

(c) on what way the voices and concern of local people heard and adequately addressed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 has been notified on 14th September, 2006 to make the EIA process more efficient, decentralized and transparent.

(b) The Notification provides for Environmental Impact Assessment study through which necessary environmental safe guards are provided at planning stage itself of the developmental project for conservation and protection of natural resources of the area thereby improving the quality of life of people in that area.

(c) The Notification provides a structured Public Consultation process through which the environmental concerns of the local people are sought to be addressed by the project authorities and are incorporated in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Encroachment of National Parks

2624. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that about 7790 hectares of 430 Kilometre of Kaziranga National Park in Assam have been encroached either by local mafia or Bangladesh migrants;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to get back this encroached land and also to ensure that such a situation does not recur;

(c) whether similar cases of encroachment have come to light in case of Manas National Park and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park; and

(d) whether exhaustive guidelines have been issued by Government, so that, wildlife reserves all over the country are comparatively free from such encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There is no encroachment in the original 430 Sq. Km. area of Kaziranga National Park. However, a few encroachments by graziers have been reported in the area added subsequently to the National Park. These encroachments continue to be there on the basis of the judgements and interim orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Assam on the cases filed by the graziers.

(b) The State government has taken necessary steps to vacate the Orders of the Hon'ble High Court so that the area can be made free from encroachments. Effective and regular patrolling is maintained by the staff in Kaziranga National Park to prevent any fresh encroachment.

(c) Yes, Sir. There are reports of a few encroachments in Manas National Part and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

(d) Yes, Sir. This Ministry, in May, 2002, has issued exhaustive guidelines to all States/UTs, on eviction of illegal encroachment on forestland.

Increase of nitrogen dioxide

2625. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are planning an exhaustive study to analyse the reason for the increase of nitrogen dioxide in some cities;

(b) if so, the details of such cities; and

(c) the future action prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is implementing a nation-wide National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) which covers 313 operating stations in 115 cities/towns in 25 States and 4 Union Territories. Levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) observed in 35 cities is given in the statement (*see* below)